

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4486

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OECD PARIS 28443

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: COCOM LIST REVIEW - PREPARATIONS FOR ROUND II

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE RECOMMENDS DELAY IN OPENING OF LIST REVIEW ROUND II IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE MOST ITEMS THEN, AND REDUCE NEED FOR ROUND III. SUCCESS OF THIS STRATEGY DEPENDS ON OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED AND PERSUASIVE POSITIONS ON PENDING ITEMS. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY

1. USDEL AND WASH TEAM BELIEVE EDAC SHOULD BEGIN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO SCHEDULING OF ROUND II. GIVEN COST/TIME CONSIDERATIONS OF MAINTAINING TEAMS IN PARIS FOR LENGTHY PERIODS, FACTORS WHICH AFFECT ALL PC'S IN CURRENT TIGHT ECONOMIC SITUATION, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD SHOOT FOR A TWO ROUND LIST REVIEW, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS IN SUCH COMPLEX CATEGORIES AS 1565, 1355, ETC. BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE, WE CANDIDLY BELIEVE US CANNOT BE READY WITH DEFINITIVE POSITIONS ON ALL THOSE ENTRIES REMANDED TO ROUND II BY FEBRUARY, THE TRADITIONAL TIME FOR ROUND II. WE SUGGEST THAT IN SCHEDULING ROUND II EDAC CONSIDER SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME TO ALLOW FOR TTG REASSESSMENT OF US POSITIONS BASED ON PC INPUTS, FORMULATION OF COUNTERPROPOSALS, AND THE APPEAL PROCESS

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FOR DISAGREED POSITIONS. WE LEAVE THE SCHEDULING TO

EDAC, BUT SUGGEST MID-MARCH AS A TARGET DATE. WE
RECOGNIZE THAT POSTPONEMENT FROM FEBRUARY MOST LIKELY
WILL GENERATE INERTIA UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE, THE DISEASE
ENDEMIC TO US COCOM PARTICIPATION,
BUT, ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE
THAT RISK IS BETTER THAN OPENING IN FEBRUARY WITH
ANOTHER SERIES OF RESERVES.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE US WHEREVER POSSIBLE LIFT AD
REFS AND RESERVES ON ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING ROUND I,
PARTICULARLY IN THOSE CASES WHERE WE ARE THE SOLE
HOLDOUT, SO AS TO REDUCE THE ROUND II AGENDA. WE ALSO
RECOMMEND THAT ANY US COUNTERPROPOSALS BE TABLED IN
ADVANCE OF ROUND II TO ALLOW PC'S SUFFICIENT TIME TO
STUDY BEFORE ROUND II DISCUSSION.

3. WE MOST STRENUOUSLY RECOMMEND THAT US POSITIONS FOR
ROUND II, PARTICULARLY OBJECTIONS OR COUNTERPROPOSALS
AIMED AT RETAINING CURRENT PARAMETERS OR RELAXING THEM
LESS THAN CONSENSUS OF OTHER MEMBERS BE BUTTRESSED WITH
INTELLIGENCE APPRECIATIONS OF EE AND PRC CAPABILITY, BOTH
PRESENT AND IMMEDIATE FUTURE, OR WITH OBJECTIVELY
REASONABLE ANALYSIS OF WHY US BELIEVES THOSE PARAMETERS
SHOULD BE KEPT AT CERTAIN LEVELS. WE BELIEVE THIS
APPROACH WILL GO DOWN BETTER WITH PC'S AND HELP RETAIN
US CREDIBILITY THAT IT PAYS MORE THAN LIP SERVICE TO
THE COCOM CRITERIA.

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4. IT IS POSSIBLE' OF COURSE, THAT SOME OTHER MEMBERS WOULD RESIST DELAY IN OPENING OF ROUND II. WE FEEL WE CAN COPE WITH THIS, HOWEVER' IF WE ARE ARMED WITH WORD OF INTER-AGENCY INTENTION TO STRIVE FOR TIMELY, COMPLETE, AND PERSUASIVE POSITIONS FOR EACH ITEM AS SCHEDULED, AND CONSEQUENT ELIMINATION (OR TRUNCATION) OF NEED FOR ROUND III. QUESTION OF ROUND II SCHEDULING WILL PROBABLY ARISE AT ONE OF THE DECEMBER REGULAR COCOM MEETINGS (MORE LIKELY EARLIER THAN LATER), AND HENCE USDEL SHOULD BE GIVEN GUIDANCE ALONG FOREGOING LINES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. IN SEPARATE, BUT RELATED, DEVELOPMENT' UKDEL HAS ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE COMMITTEE EARLY INDICATION (NOT NECESSARILY ALL-INCLUSIVE) OF THOSE ITEMS ON WHICH US WILL PROBABLY SUBMIT COUNTER-PROPOSALS. WE TRUST THAT JUDGEMENT ALONG THIS LINE MAY ALREADY BE POSSIBLE FOR ITEMS OTHER THAN ELECTRONIC, AND THAT ASSESSMENT ON 1500 SERIES ITEMS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT CONSULTATIONS AFTER RETURN OF ELECTRONICS TECHNICIANS PRESENTLY ASSISTING USDEL.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS TO POINTS ABOVE.
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